



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

8 May 1980

Ms. Anita Summer
Family Weekly, Inc.
641 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Summer:

Thank you for your letter of 18 April to the Director. We appreciate the interest of you and your readers in the Central Intelligence Agency.

In response to your questions:

Why is so little publicity and recognition given to the Central Intelligence Agency? As a clandestine organization, it is impossible for the Agency to promote its image or to defend itself against criticism by heralding its successes--impossible because of the statutory and realistic obligation to protect intelligence sources and methods from unnecessary disclosure.

In recent years, the CIA has got a bad image and is sometimes the subject of ridicule. Why is this, and what can be done to prevent it? It is apparent that the image of the Agency is on the upswing. In the aftermath of Vietnam, Watergate, and the revelations of congressional investigations, the CIA was exposed to a degree of disapprobation in this country that has been slow to turn around. But no one ever found that CIA was unfaithful to its mission. Recent events in Iran and Afghanistan seem to have jogged the public consciousness as to the necessity for having a strong intelligence service; hence, the public attitude currently seems to be quite positive, as evidenced by the mail we receive and the editorials we see.

Enclosed as a matter of information is some general information on CIA's organization and responsibilities. You may be interested in other questions that people often ask listed on page 28 of "Intelligence." You are free to use this information in any way you wish.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Wilson
Chief
Plans and Policy Branch

Enclosures

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FAMILY WEEKLY

ANITA SUMMER
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
"ASK THEM YOURSELF"

18th April, 1980

Adm. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Adm. Turner:

As you may know, Family Weekly's most successful feature is "Ask Them Yourself." It appears each week on page 2 of the magazine, which is part of 352 Sunday newspapers across the country, having a combined circulation in excess of twelve million.

Our readers have addressed the following questions to you, and we would be very grateful for your replies, which we hope will be conversational, as though you were responding to the questioners in person. If you can embellish the simple facts with some personal comment, in not less than one paragraph, I'd very much appreciate it.

* Why is so little publicity and recognition given to the CIA. It's as though it doesn't exist - yet it is so important to all phases of the U.S. Government?

* In recent years, the CIA has got a bad image and is sometimes the subject of ridicule. Why is this, and what can be done to prevent it?

When you reply, please be good enough to enclose a 10 x 8 glossy headshot of yourself.

With many thanks, and looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Sincerely,

